

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors March 2025 Meeting Minutes

Location: UF/IFAS Extension Office – Clover Room 2741 Penn Ave, Marianna, FL, 32448

Date: March 10, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM

Board members present: Steve Basford, David DeFelix, Jeff Pittman, Mack Glass, Tom Stadskev

Quorum: YES (All present)

Absent: -0-

Staff Present: Peggy Gilley, Financial Analyst Administrator, Haylee Sapp, District Coordinator, Rex Patterson, JSWCD MIL Team Leader, Kevin Warren, JSWCD MIL Tech, Katie Moore, JSWCD BMP Tech.

Attendees: Doug Mayo, Jackson County UF/IFAS Director, Michael Young, 4-H Ag agent, Garrett Williams, Environmental Consultant – FDACS/OAWP, Gary Chew, NFWFMD – Environmental Specialist II – District AG Cost Share Program, Michael Felton, Supervisory District Conservationist, Clay Milton, Fuqua & Milton, PA, Kayla Wilson, Assistant Principal at Graceville K12 School, accompanied by concerned Graceville citizen, Caroline Chappell.

Supervisor Basford calls the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Supervisor Basford greets attendees.

Supervisor DeFelix motioned to approve the agenda; Supervisor Glass seconded it. Carried unanimously.

Supervisor DeFelix motioned to approve the minutes as read; Supervisor Pittman seconded it. Carried unanimously.

UF/IFAS: Doug Mayo reports that the spring agent conferences finished up with the Row Crop Short Course on March 6th. From the speakers' perspectives, it is going to be a challenging year ahead for farmers. Some of the payments for 2024 are paid out later in the month. He thanks the board for their support and for having JSWCD set up at the events. Regarding pesticide training, as of 10/01 testing in this office is over. Doug stated that there will still be pesticide online testing until September 30th and to schedule the online testing as soon as possible with Liz Jackson in the UF/IFAS extension office. The recent rain has been good for our soil moisture. The cover crops and winter graze are growing.

NFWFMD: Gary Chew reports that the cost-share for cover crops has been completed. Inspections are upcoming. They are preparing for equipment cost share, which will begin this month.

Graceville School: Kayla states that due to the relocation of the elementary school, the students lost their playground equipment. Since the board supports the Jackson County youth, Kayla is requesting sponsorship of one of the playground equipment. The board will consider this request.

4-H: Michael is hosting a summer camp for the youth of 4-H. The summer camps consist of learning about agriculture and life skills such as raising a chicken, sewing, cooking, and archery. Each camp would be \$250.00. Supervisor DeFelix made a motion to sponsor the 4-H summer camp for \$250.00, seconded by Supervisor Pittman. It carried unanimously.

MIL: Rex reports that they are looking good this month. The FL MIL Labs have a meeting scheduled for 04/03 and 04/04. This will not be a regular meeting as the state has asked them to put together Standard Operating

Procedures. The teams will meet to finalize what they have put together. Lake County SWCD has folded, and the state is putting that lab out to bid. There could be a different contract yearly. The next regular ICC meeting is scheduled for May.

NRCS: Michael Felton walked the group through a PowerPoint presentation about what a Local Working Group is and the resource concerns options to select from for Jackson County's resource needs in 2026. The group decided that Cropland farmers would need the most assistance. With a focus on deer and hog depredation, if possible.

BMP/FDACS/OAWP: Three cost-share applicants are going to be paid within the week. IVs are being completed and in progress.

Financial: The financial reports are in the supervisor's packets. Peggy reports that the payment for our MIL January invoice that was sent on 02/06 has not been deposited yet.

District Coordinator: Haylee reports that the Beef Cattle Conference, FL Peanut Producers annual meeting, Row Crop Short Course, and the Citrus Health Forum were all successful with good foot traffic. The attendees were directed to respective SWCDs within their county/state since attendees were from different parts of Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Land Judging was a success with 63 attendees, the majority being students from six different schools over four counties.

Supervisor: Supervisor Pittman reports that March 18th is the Farm Bureau Legislative Day and Annual Meeting in Tallahassee. Their Jackson County Annual Banquet is on 03/25 at RCC. Also, Cattleman's Legislative Day is this Wednesday, 03/12.

New Business: Senate Bill 986 – if passed, it will abolish 37 inactive Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Of those 37, some have been closed for a while since last year's bill. There was a discussion regarding what our responsibilities will be if the bill passes. The bills give FDACS the charge of making the rules and acting it out. Until there is a clear direction of whether the bill will be passed or not, the board cannot form an opinion.

Supervisor Pittman asked about the JSWCD Mission Statement. Peggy replied it was part of the OPPAGA report. The board asked for that to be emailed to the Supervisors. Our original one would be tied to NRCS, and we've moved from NRCS to FDACS. He also asked that many of us attend on 03/18, so Tallahassee needs to see and hear from us.

Adjourned at 9:22 am.

04/09/2025: Supervisor DeFelix motioned to approve the minutes as read; Supervisor Glass seconded it. Carried unanimously.